# Princess Anne Middle School

**2015-2016 Class Expectations**

**6th Grade Advanced Science**

***Teacher:*** Kimberly Piper  ***Course:*** Physical Science

***School Telephone Number***: 648-4950 ***Email address***: Kimberly.piper@vbschools.com

[**http://pams-piper.wikispaces.com**](http://pams-piper.wikispaces.com)

[**https://www.edmodo.com**](https://www.edmodo.com)each Edmodo class has their own code for access. Parents are welcome to join and monitor your student’s work.

**Course Description and Objectives:** Core and Advanced 6th grade science is an activity-based course in which the students participate in hands on activities. Experimental design and real world applications will be used to teach about the natural and technological world. Students will use inquiry skills and problem solving strategies to develop an understanding of science and technology. The course objectives correlate with the Virginia Standards of Learning.

**Course Scope and Sequence:**

**Text:** Science Explorer: Physical Science by Prentice Hall

* Directions on how to access the online text can be found on my wikispace

\*Investigative Process Skills

\*Matter

\*Chemistry

\*Space

\*Energy

\*Light

\*Sound

\* Heat

\*Electricity and Magnetism

\*Force and Motion

**Grading Procedures and Policies: Mastery Grading**

*Rationale:* Grades are NOT compensation. Grades are communication. They are an accurate report of what happened, a measurement of how far the student has mastered their skills. A standards based grading system does not factor in where a student begins in their learning; rather it evaluates a student’s progress throughout the unit offering multiple opportunities to obtain mastery.

*Procedure:* We are basing students’ grades on standards for Grade 6 Advanced Science. Final grades are first and foremost determined by our professional opinion of your child’s work against those standards, not by mathematical calculations. We have been trained in analyzing student products against standards and finding evidence of that learning using a variety of methods. A student’s final grade will be determined at the end of each quarter by converting from the 4-point scale to the VBCPS Board approved grading scale. Please be sure to sign up for **Parental Portal**, if you haven’t already done so, to view your child’s progress towards mastery.

*Assessment Measures:* Students will be evaluated using formative and summative assessments; which may include, but are not limited to, tests, quizzes, classwork, lab investigations, and performance tasks.

*Homework:* Homework will be assigned on an as needed basis for assessment review, project research, completion of classwork if more time is needed, and extra practice. Because standard based grading evaluates mastery of your child’s learning, homework will no longer be counted as a part of their overall progress for a grade. It does continue; however, to be an integral part of their role in their education, something for them to take ownership of. Students who do not complete homework will be assigned academic detention Wednesday of the following week.

*Graded Assignments:* Graded assignments will be posted at least once a week to Parent Portal, unless the assignment was a lengthy project, which may take longer to evaluate thoroughly.

**Grading Procedures and Policies:**

4 = Advanced Proficient – consistently demonstrates proficiency; grasps, applies, and extends key concepts, processes and skills.

3 = Proficient – regularly grasps and applies key concepts, processes, and skills with limited errors.

2 = Developing Proficiency – beginning to grasp and apply key concepts, processes, and skills

1 = Novice – needs improvement; not making expected progress toward proficiency

0 = No progress is evaluated.

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**Supplies**: 3-5 subject notebook, journal, dry erase marker(s), colored pencils, glue sticks, pencil, pen, and highlighter

**Parent Portal:** If you have not done so already, please sign up for “Parent Portal” on the school’s website to be able to access your child’s grades at any point during the year. This is a great tool for students to monitor their own progress as well as check for the accuracy of their grades.

**My School Mail:** Please sign up for ‘My School Mail’ on the school’s website. This will provide you with a daily email for your student’s homework and other important information. You can also sign up here for sporting even reminders, PTA newsletters and other valuable resources.

**Absent/Make-up work:** is due the next class meeting after returning to school. Accommodations may be made for extended absence. Advance notice for anticipated absences is appreciated. It is the student’s responsibility to gain makeup work from specified locations in each class. Parents may request work be delivered for pickup by calling Guidance, which will notify all teachers. *It is highly recommended that students pick up absence work immediately upon return rather than waiting until their class meets again. In a block schedule, 1 day’s absence is the equivalent of 2 days of instruction.*

**Help Sessions:** I will be available for extra help by appointment only. Students must have a signature in their agenda from me, which will allow them to get into the building early in the morning. Homework centers are available in both AM and PM in the cafeteria. Please see the school’s website for more information on those sessions.

**Conferences**: If you feel a conference is necessary, then contact the **guidance department**. Conferences will be from 8:40-9:00 in the guidance office. I encourage you to email me if you have any questions/concerns, since I have found that it is the easiest method of communication between teacher and parent,

Ms. Cathy Peterson, the Gifted Resource Teacher, will be working with the gifted cluster classes.  She can be reached by email ([Cathy.Peterson@vbschools.com](mailto:Cathy.Peterson@vbschools.com)) or phone (648-4950 x59137).  Email is the preferred and most efficient contact method. Please allow 24 hours for a response.

**Agenda/Planner:** The school will provide each student with a planner (agenda). The planner must be used every day to record homework, upcoming tests, etc. The planner is also used as the student’s hall pass. Please check your child’s planner often to keep up with classroom information. Occasionally, there may be a message from the teacher written in it and parents can write messages to the teacher as well. If the planner is lost or damaged, it must be replaced at the student’s cost of $8.

**Citizenship Expectations:**

Students will:

* Bring necessary supplies to class each day
* Work cooperatively in large and small groups
* Use proper behavior by following the school and class rules
* Go directly to homeroom from their bus in the morning
* Let the teacher know where they are going at all times
* Use the agenda/planner correctly

Students experiencing difficulty meeting behavioral expectations will be disciplined according to the VBCPS Code of Conduct.

Advanced 6 Science

**I have reviewed these expectations with my child. I will support the teacher in the delivery of instruction and the enforcement of acceptable classroom behavior.**

**Parent/guardian name(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (cell phone) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(cell phone) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/guardian signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**Student signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**